

## THE CLAIMS

What is claimed:

- 1           1.       A mechanism for coupling a first fracture fixation implant to a second  
2 fracture fixation implant, comprising:  
3           a body member receivable in the first implant, the body member including a single  
4 prong extending from the body member for contacting a surface of the second implant to  
5 substantially prevent rotation of the second implant with respect to the first implant; and  
6           a drive member for moving the body member toward the second implant.
- 1           2.       The mechanism of claim 1, wherein:  
2           the single prong defines a first engagement surface;  
3           the second implant defines a second engagement surface; and  
4           the first and second engagement surfaces interact to substantially prevent rotation of  
5 the second implant with respect to the first implant.
- 1           3.       The mechanism of claim 2, wherein the body member is located in a  
2 longitudinal channel in the first implant, and the single prong occupies a space defined  
3 between the channel and second engagement surface.
- 1           4.       The mechanism of claim 1, wherein the second implant defines a  
2 longitudinal axis, and the single prong limits sliding of the second implant with respect to  
3 the first implant along the longitudinal axis.
- 1           5.       The mechanism of claim 4, wherein the second implant defines an  
2 engagement surface having a first end and a second end longitudinally spaced from the first  
3 end, with stops formed adjacent at least one of the ends for contacting the single prong to  
4 limit sliding of the second implant along the longitudinal axis.
- 1           6.       The mechanism of claim 1, wherein the second implant extends through a  
2 bore in the first implant.
- 1           7.       The mechanism of claim 6, wherein the first implant defines a first  
2 longitudinal axis and the second implant defines a second longitudinal axis, and the bore  
3 orients the first longitudinal axis at a predetermined angle with respect to the second  
4 longitudinal axis.

1           8.       The mechanism of claim 7, wherein the predetermined angle substantially  
2 matches the neck/shaft angle of a femur.

1           9.       The mechanism of claim 1, wherein the body member includes a  
2 substantially cylindrical portion defining a longitudinal axis of the body member, and the  
3 single prong extends in a direction substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis.

1           10.      The mechanism of claim 1, wherein the body member includes at least one  
2 tab for engaging a corresponding groove on an inner surface of the first implant.

1           11.      The mechanism of claim 10, wherein the at least one tab engages the groove  
2 to substantially prevent rotation of the body member within the first implant.

1           12.      The mechanism of claim 10, wherein the body member includes a  
2 substantially cylindrical portion having a lower surface, and the at least one tab engages the  
3 groove to maintain a space between the lower surface and the second implant.

1           13.      The mechanism of claim 1, wherein the drive member is connected to the  
2 body member.

1           14.      The mechanism of claim 13, wherein the drive member is rotatable with  
2 respect to the body member.

1           15.      The mechanism of claim 1, wherein the drive member threadably engages  
2 the first implant.

1           16.      The mechanism of claim 1, wherein the drive member is receivable within  
2 the first implant.

1           17.      The mechanism of claim 1, further comprising an end cap attachable to the  
2 first implant.

1           18.      The mechanism of claim 17, wherein the end cap captivates the drive  
2 member and the body member within the first implant.

1           19.      The mechanism of claim 17, wherein a cannulation extends through the end  
2 cap for receiving a guide wire.

1           20.     The mechanism of claim 1, wherein a cannulation extends through the first  
2     implant for receiving a guide wire.

1           21.     The mechanism of claim 1, wherein a cannulation extends through the drive  
2     member for receiving a guide wire.

1           22.     The mechanism of claim 1, wherein a cannulation extends through the body  
2     member for receiving a guide wire.

1           23.     A mechanism for coupling a first fracture fixation implant to a second  
2     fracture fixation implant, comprising:

3           a body member receivable in the first implant, the body defining a longitudinal axis  
4     of the mechanism;

5           a first prong extending from the body member for contacting a first surface of the  
6     second implant, the first prong defining a first prong length along the longitudinal axis;

7           a second prong extending from the body member for contacting a second surface of  
8     the second implant, the second prong defining a second prong length along the longitudinal  
9     axis; and

10          a drive member for pressing the body member toward the second implant;

11          wherein the second prong length is substantially longer than the first prong length.

1           24.     The mechanism of claim 23, wherein the first and second prongs are  
2     substantially parallel to one another.

1           25.     The mechanism of claim 23, wherein the second prong length is substantially  
2     zero.

1           26.     The mechanism of claim 23, wherein at least one of the first and second  
2     prongs contacts the second implant to substantially prevent rotation of the second implant  
3     with respect to the first implant.

1           27.     The mechanism of claim 23, wherein the second implant defines a  
2     longitudinal axis, and at least one of the first and second prongs contacts the second implant  
3     to substantially limit sliding of the second implant along the longitudinal axis.

1           28.     The mechanism of claim 23, wherein the second implant extends through a  
2     bore in the first implant.

1           29.     The mechanism of claim 28, wherein the first implant defines a first  
2 longitudinal axis, the second implant defines a second longitudinal axis, the bore orients the  
3 first longitudinal axis at a predetermined angle with respect to the second longitudinal axis,  
4 and the predetermined angle substantially matches the neck/shaft angle of a femur.

1           30.     The mechanism of claim 23, wherein the body member includes at least one  
2 tab for engaging a corresponding groove on an inner surface of the first implant.

1           31.     The mechanism of claim 30, wherein the at least one tab engages the groove  
2 to substantially prevent rotation of the body member within the first implant.

1           32.     The mechanism of claim 30, wherein the body member includes a  
2 substantially cylindrical portion having a lower surface, and the at least one tab engages the  
3 groove to maintain a space between the lower surface and the second implant.

1           33.     The mechanism of claim 30, further comprising an end cap attachable to the  
2 first implant.

1           34.     The mechanism of claim 33, wherein the end cap captivates the drive  
2 member and the body member within the first implant.